

5 November 1970

Dear Jim,

Attached I'm sending you a copy of a series of articles concerning the BND which will be printed by the magazine "Spiegel", beginning at the end of November for several weeks. It is not quite sure yet whether this will be the final draft of the series - however, the tendency will remain the same. It was rather difficult to get hold of the material. I did not get in touch with the President about this matter because our relations are very reserved. It will be tried to prevent the appearance of this article by another side. My person is treated rather well in this series, probably because of the knowledge that I'm working historically for the Service - raising the suspicion that I might be the top source of these indiscretions. Otherwise it cannot be explained why the first draft was changed, which contained a lot of malignity against my person. However, I read only a small part of this first draft.

The inspiration to this series came from Minister Ehmke. I don't believe that the motives shown up in these articles are the true motives. There are a few hints that the other side may be involved. It is regrettable that coworkers of our Service were induced to talk by Ehmke and his new party folks and I don't suppose that the quoted sources have been the only informants. These series contain, as you will see, several subjects to be classified top secret, among these also statements about Comint and Elint which are not true in this form, but nevertheless an

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offence against NATO interests. As the new Vice President Bloetz disposes of a close contact to the "Spiegel", it can be assumed that most of the given material went through this channel.

The tendency of the article shows that the intellectual originator or originators had the following aim:

- 1.) The person of Wessel shall be made ridiculous and unbearable, probably in order to make this position free for Nollau, the protégé of Wehner, or another person convenient to the SPD;
- 2.) The sources and "V-Leute" of the BND shall be frightened in order to have them leap off;
- 3.) The relations to other western services, already impaired now, shall be interrupted;
- 4.) Possibly in spite of all given assurances, to prepare a change of position from East to West in the political and intelligence field???

I don't know whether the measures in preparation will be successful in preventing the appearance of these series. If not, it should be considered whether an intervention of the United States with Ehmke via diplomatic channels might be successful, particularly as NATO interests are involved. I would be grateful if you would consider this step only upon a second notice from me personally in case that the efforts in preparation here prove to have no success.

The whole procedure in this matter should under no circumstances make apparant my own activity concerning this case.

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With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Farmer